

“PROGRESSIVE FARMING OF PIGS IN HILLY DISTRICT OF ASSAM”

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ABSTRACT

*Progressive management care in pigs in Dima Hasao district was observed among fifty each pig farmers from two developmental blocks namely Diyungbra (Block I) and Jatinga (Block II) in Assam. It was found that about 80 per cent of the respondents in Block I, Block II and pooled sample were in medium category of adopting the health care practices. Further, they showed that 100 per cent, 86 per cent and 93 per cent of the respondents provided clean water for the purpose of drinking, 100 per cent in all categories adopted castration or spaying of piglets, 94 per cent, 100 per cent and 97 per cent practiced weaning of piglets and 0 per cent, 2 per cent and 1 per cent practice deworming in Block I, Block II and pooled sample respectively. They also showed that there was highly significant difference between the respondents of the two blocks ($t=7.48^{**}$, $P<0.01$) with regard to management practices. It was further observed that the mean scores of Block I was more in comparison to Block II in all areas of management of pigs in Dima Hasao district of Assam.*

KEYWORDS: Pig Rearers, Management/Health Care & Dima Hasao

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INTRODUCTION

Piggery is very popular livestock in the hilly tribal belts in all the states of North Eastern region of India because of the socio-cultural and traditional involvement. In Dima Hasao, which is one of the hill district of Assam; piggery is integral part of almost every household since most of them are unable to raise other livestock in such uneven terrains having no common grazing land and other facilitating provisions. Hence, the rearing of pigs is the major source of income and over the years an impressive growth in understanding and application has been noticed. Agricultural practice is an alternate occupation with very less number of man days getting engaged in them. Management practices have a significant role to play to increase the production and productivity of the pig. Therefore, a study was conducted to find out the farmers' involvement with the key management practices for the pigs they rear in the difficult Dima Hasao district of Assam.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was undertaken in two selected blocks of Dima Hasao (the erstwhile North Cachar) district of Assam during the month of October 2012 to February 2013. The blocks were selected in such a manner that, one block was located far off from the district headquarters having low pig population namely Diyungbra ITDP Block

and second block which was nearest to the district headquarters having high pig population namely Jatinga Valley Development Block. From each selected block two villages were selected on the basis of maximum number of pig rearers. Again from each village a total of 25 pig farmers were randomly selected for the present study making the sample size of the 100 (one hundred). A comprehensive interview schedule was developed for data collection. For obtaining response on different key areas of management of pigs, the respondents were offered ten statements and they were asked to respond in either of the three degrees ranging from mostly, sometimes and occasionally. The scoring patterns were 3, 2 and 1 respectively. As such the minimum and maximum obtainable scores for a respondent were 10 and 30 respectively. Pre-testing of the interview schedule was done in the nearby simulating Cachar district to see the reliability and validity of the interview schedule. The reliability coefficient worked out was 0.89 and as far as the validity was concerned, content validity was ensured in consultation with all the experts available in the University, Research Institutes of national repute (NRC on pig) and field veterinarians.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Management of any livestock farm, big or small, is an indication of man animal relation one maintains in farm sector. Management is important for the growth and development of all farmings including piggery sector. Table 1 showed that majority i.e. about 80 per cent of the respondents in Block I, Block II and pooled sample were in medium category of adopting the key management practices. It could also be seen from Table 2 that 100 per cent, 86 per cent and 93 per cent of the respondents provided clean water for the purpose of drinking, 100 per cent in all categories adopted castration or spaying of piglets, 94 per cent, 100 per cent and 97 per cent practiced weaning of piglets and 0 per cent, 2 per cent and 1 per cent practice deworming in Block I, Block II and pooled sample respectively. All these activities were performed as a part of their key traditional norms. In case of management and health care not much innovation had taken place among the pigs in the area under study. Similar results in the backward villages of Kamrup district of Assam were also reported by Payeng (2011) and Shyam (2011). Further, this was in line with those found by Rahman, *et al.* (2008) who reported that castration and weaning were practiced by all the tribal farmers in the state of Mizoram. The result was conflicting with those of Deka *et al.* (2007) who found that during the household survey in Dhemaji only 25 per cent farmers reported the use of de-worming drugs while some of the interviewed farmers were even not aware of the drugs' importance, 35 per cent provided iron supplement, 23 per cent practiced weaning of piglets. All these activities were parts of their cultural/traditional norms to be followed in pig rearing in the state as there existed an atmosphere for such activities.

Table 1 showed that there was highly significant mean difference between the respondents of the two blocks ($t=7.48^{**}$, $P<0.01$) with regard to key management practices. It was further observed that the mean score of Block I was more in all areas of key managerial practices in comparison to Block II. Since Block I respondents were more educated than that of Block II respondents, so they might have adopted improved management practices. Education having association with adoption of improved management practices was also reported by Hazarika and Anand (2001) who found that a positive and highly significant relationship existed between education and adoption of improved practices among dairy farmers. Rahman (2007) found that education was positively and significantly associated with adoption level of Animal husbandry practices and Das and Baisya (2012) found that educated farmers were confident to adopt any new technology and that education status of farmer had significant effect on adoption behavior of respondents.

SUMMARY

The findings of the study revealed that in both Block I and Block II, in Dima Hasao district of Assam majority of the respondents had medium to high level of adoption on key issues of management practices. There was also highly significant difference between the respondents of the two block ($t=7.48^{**}$, $P<0.01$) with regard to key management practices. Further, in detailed analysis, it was found that that 100 per cent, 86 per cent and 93 per cent of the respondents provided clean water to the pigs for drinking, 100 per cent in all categories adopted castration or spaying of piglets, 94 per cent, 100 per cent and 97 per cent practiced weaning of piglets and 0 per cent, 2 per cent and 1 per cent practice deworming in Block I, Block II and pooled sample respectively. The findings indicated that farmers have shown progress in their practices for rapid development of pig rearing in the hill district although, some other important issues relating to pig production were to be take care of.

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APPENDICEES

Table 1: Frequency Distribution of the Respondents on Key Management Issues

Variable	Blocks	Mean	SD	Range	Low	Medium	High	'T' Value
Management practices	Block I	23	2.06	18-27	3(6)	40(80)	7(14)	7.48**
	Block II	19.68	2.05	16-22	6(12)	40(80)	4(8)	
	Pooled	21.34	2.64	16-27	7(7)	81(81)	12(12)	

Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage. ** Indicates highly significant at 0.01 level of probability

Table 2: Frequency Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Their Adoption of Key Management Practices

Si. No	Key Management Practices	Blocks	Degree of Information		
			Mostly	Sometimes	Occasionally
1.	Providing clean water for the purpose of drinking	Block I	50(100)	0(0)	0(0)
		Block II	43(86)	7(14)	0(0)
		Pooled	93(93)	7(7)	0(0)
2.	Castration/spaying of piglets	Block I	50(100)	0(0)	0(0)
		Block II	50(100)	0(0)	0(0)
		Pooled	100(100)	0(0)	0(0)
3.	De-worming	Block I	0(0)	4(8)	43(86)
		Block II	1(2)	3(6)	35(70)
		Pooled	1(1)	7(7)	78(78)
4.	Weaning of piglets	Block I	47(94)	2(4)	0(0)
		Block II	50(100)	0(0)	0(0)
		Pooled	97(97)	2(2)	0(0)
5.	First aid treatment during emergency	Block I	22(44)	22(44)	5(10)
		Block II	5(10)	23(46)	1(2)
		Pooled	27(27)	45(45)	6(6)
6.	Separation of sick animals from healthy animals	Block I	49(98)	1(2)	0(0)
		Block II	50(100)	0(0)	0(0)
		Pooled	99(99)	1(1)	0(0)
7.	Person approached for treatment of sick animals				
a.	VAS	Block I	4(8)	27(54)	6(12)
		Block II	16(32)	31(62)	3(6)
		Pooled	20(20)	58(58)	9(9)
b.	VFA	Block I	5(10)	3(6)	2(4)
		Block II	0(0)	3(3)	0(0)
		Pooled	5(5)	6(6)	2(2)
c.	Fellow farmer	Block I	3(6)	1(2)	3(6)
		Block II	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
		Pooled	3(3)	1(1)	3(3)
8.	Self treatment by the farmer	Block I	11(22)	12(24)	10(20)
		Block II	0(0)	8(16)	3(6)
		Pooled	11(11)	20(20)	13(13)
9.	Cleaning the sty once/ twice a day	Block I	1(2)	14(28)	35(70)
		Block II	2(4)	8(16)	28(56)
		Pooled	3(3)	22(22)	63(63)
10.	Cleaning mangers and water troughs before every fresh supply of feed and water	Block I	35(70)	9(18)	5(10)
		Block II	4(8)	43(86)	7(14)
		Pooled	0(0)	45(45)	13(13)

**Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage.